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Sergeant Merle Vanderhoof Is a Prisoner in Germany

Mr. and Mrs. J. Quincy Vanderhoof of Newton received a telegram from the War Department, Friday afternoon, which informed them that their son, Technical Sergeant Merle Vanderhoof, was a prisoner of war of Germany. The message didn't indicate where he was imprisoned, but it is presumably somewhere inside Germany.

Sergeant Vanderhoof had been reported missing in action since February 22, when he and other members of the crew of a B-24 bomber failed to return from a mission over enemy held territory.

He was a waist gunner on a Liberator bomber and had been overseas since August 5, 1943, his twenty-second birthday. He was at first stationed in North Africa but was later moved to Italy, when air bases were established on Italian territory.

On Many Missions

In a letter written a short time before he was reported missing, he stated that he had been on thirty-three missions and hoped to be able to return to the United States early in April.

No information was contained in the telegram about how the bomber was lost, but it is presumed that it was either forced down behind the German lines, or was destroyed in the air by German fighter planes or anti-aircraft fire and the crew parachuted to safety.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderhoof wish to express their thanks for the many cards, letters and inquiries in his behalf received by them.